

COMDESRON 15 hosts waterfront ordnance conference

Story and photos by Kevin McDonald,
CFAY Assistant Explosive Safety Officer

Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15 recently hosted the annual waterfront ordnance conference conducted by Commander, Naval Surface Forces for Forward-Deployed Naval Forces ships and units.

The conference brought together many shipboard and shore based ordnance and weapons personnel to discuss all matters pertaining to weapons and ammunition issues. Opening remarks came from Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames and Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Anthony Bowers of DESRON 15.

They welcomed all participants to the conference and thanked the many guest speakers who traveled from many parts of CONUS and overseas locations to conduct this event.

Topics included small arms and torpedo management, ordnance handling equipment and materials handling equipment review, training materials, Navy munitions command role, CFAY weapons ranges, Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity, combat and operational stress reactions, Naval Operational Logistics Support Center and many more.

Lt. Dave Hamilton, officer in charge of Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Yokosuka Det., said that this was a great opportunity to have subject matter experts talked about a number of topics which are important to our FDNF units. He also briefed the audience



GM1(SW) John Linke (left), Tomohiro Ishibashi and Takashi Fujii (right) prepare to onload a pallet of 5-inch rounds of high explosives to USS Cowpens (CG 63).



GM2 Jonathan Daniels, an ordnance handling rigger (center) prepares to offload a Harpoon missile from USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54) while ET2 Mark Love, with white hardhat, keeps a watchful eye on safety. Crew members from the ship are all in position handle the missile.

Blue Angels seeking officers, enlisted

By Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron
Public Affairs

EL CENTRO, Calif. (NNS) — The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron is encouraging qualified Navy and Marine Corps officers and enlisted to apply for the 2008 season.

According to the Blue Angels Opposing Solo pilot, Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Davis, this season's applications officer, the squadron is seeking three tactical jet pilots, a Marine C-130 pilot, a maintenance officer and an administrative officer for the 2009 season.

The squadron's enlisted applications chief petty officer, Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AW) Bob Sadak, said the team has a variety of positions available for Navy and Marine Corps members at paygrades starting as junior as petty 2nd second class and sergeant.

Outstanding 3rd class petty officers also may be considered for the following rates or Navy Enlisted Classifications: aviation machinist's mate, aviation electrician's mate, aviation structural mechanics, aviation structural mechanic (equipment), aviation ordnanceman, aviation electronics technician, aviation maintenance administrationman, aircrew survival equipmentman, mass communication specialists, storekeeper and yeoman. The team also is looking for a hospital corpsman 1st class with an 8406 NEC, and chiefs in the AZ and AM ratings.

"The application process is easy," said Davis. "However, the selection process is what's difficult. It is an extremely fair and time-consuming process, but that is what is required to uphold our 61-year tradition of excellence."

Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Eric Hodge said that enlisted applicants should be exemplary Sailors and Marines who are willing to work outside their area of expertise and enjoy traveling.

"Our command mission is to enhance recruiting and retention efforts," Hodge said. "But we also serve as ambassadors of goodwill, and bolster pride and patriotism in American citizens. It takes a special person to be able to do that naturally."

Hodge said that the command is unique because the enlisted selection process includes a majority of input from the Sailors and Marines currently assigned to the team.

"Essentially, the crew members nominate their reliefs," Hodge said. "Therefore, it's important that we have many applicants to consider."

"We have a very comprehensive indoctrination program, and we will properly train our selectees. We're simply looking for the best and brightest young men and women in the Naval service," Sadak said.

"We want team players, who are excellent communicators and who really want to be the backbone of the Blue Angels organization," Sadak said.

Davis said he hopes that Sailors take this opportunity to apply. "We are encouraging all qualified officers to consider applying for the team, or at least visit the application page on our Web site," Davis said.

"The more applicants we have, the tougher it is for us to make a decision - but that's exactly what we want to happen. We have a legacy to uphold, and that is why we hand-pick the most well-rounded, professional and charismatic aviators and support officers in the Navy and Marine Corps."

It's good to know who to contact for help."

— Bernie Jimenez,
CFAY Explosive Safety Officer

on his command's role in supporting the FDNF war fighters with ordnance logistics they need to accomplish their mission.

Bernie Jimenez, CFAY explosive safety officer said that the conference provided a good source of ordnance information to forward-deployed units and provided ship's weapons personnel the chance to meet the experts face-to-face. "It's good to know who to contact for help."

Additionally, explosive safety inspectors from NOSSA San Diego came for training assist visits on the upcoming conventional ordnance safety review of FDNF ships. The purpose of COSR is to promote heightened hazard awareness of explosives safety requirements, measure the extent to which ship's personnel are performing compliance with regulations, assess the ship's overall ordnance safety posture and provide informal explosives safety training of ship's personnel.

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